

LifeWalkGPS
Gifts - Personalities - Strengths

Stepping Out in Faith

For a New Business!



Welcome



I am so excited to begin to work with you to build the business God designed you to create! A business that brings you great joy AND creates an abundance of spiritual wealth.

We were all created specifically to serve God and our higher purpose. And we are to find joy in doing so. We are to thrive in our lives, business, and ministry while creating a legacy of abundance and good works for His glory.

As we enter into this time of preparation, remember GOD has called you into business, and He is supporting you in the process.

The act of simply moving forward and making the decision to start a business is a step of faith that has ALREADY RELEASED blessing.

Don't waste time doing something you hate! We waste hours doing things we hate; save that time for doing the things you love and that "light you up." You can rest in the knowledge that what you're doing is what you're supposed to be doing - live in grace.

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Stepping Out in Faith for A New Business

Marie's husband walked out after years of marriage. Her only thoughts were she needed to find a job as a church secretary or admin. But she had a 90-year-old mother at home needing constant attention. A good friend, who knew her well, told her to think about starting a business as a virtual assistant or planner. Her gifts, personality, and strengths made starting a business a perfect fit.

Few things are scarier than starting a new business. Many business owners fail within the first three years of business, and a startlingly high number experience subsequent debt and bankruptcy.

But just as God led the Israelites through the wilderness, He can guide you through the adventure of starting a new business.

Five years down the road, Marie is a project manager for two multi-million dollar companies and has hired three of her six children to help run her business. It just takes that leap of faith.

Is God Calling You to a New Business?

You have an idea for a new business, but you're not sure if it is where Holy Spirit is leading you. Here are four quick signs that God might be calling you to a new business:

Sign #1: You Can't Get the Idea Out of Your Head

Often, the best business ventures are those about which you're passionate. It's the idea stuck inside your head for weeks, months, or even years.

If you're like most people, you have thousands of thoughts a day. Most of these thoughts fade away quickly after a few minutes. But then there are the thoughts you come back to again and again. This one thought may be Holy Spirit nudging you to consider starting a business.

Sign #2: You're Passionate about Serving

The best business owners are passionate about serving through their business. It might mean offering bookkeeping services to small business owners or designing beautiful printables for busy moms.

What your business does isn't nearly as important as how you do it. The more focused you are on serving your customers and helping them achieve their goals, the more likely you are to find success.

Sign #3: You're Hearing Good Feedback

God may have designed you with the knowledge to plan, organize or schedule. You know it's something you are good at and gifted in doing. When you began to hear this often, start questioning if God is telling you to take a chance on this.

If you're not at a point where you're comfortable sharing your work, hearing honest feedback, and accepting advice, you're not ready to start a business. Instead, focus on finding ways to share your work with others. Try to share it with people who will give you gentle critiques so you can improve.

Sign #4: You Know the Timing Is Right

The timing doesn't mean everything is perfect in your life. But you have the space and time to dedicate to a new adventure. If you're busy homeschooling four kids, working a full-time job, and trying to care for an aging parent, the timing to start your new business may not be ideal.

It would be wise to look at your schedule hard if you know the timing is right despite already balancing a full schedule. Search for anything you can delegate or even remove from your plate entirely.

Be Patient in the Not Yet

Just because you have a fantastic idea doesn't mean the timing is right. It might be months or years before you're ready to start a business. But don't despair if God whispers to your heart, "Not yet."

Many famous Biblical heroes and heroines went through years of "not yet" until they reached the place God had intended for them. Those "not yet" years turned out to be what they needed to grow into their dreams.

Pause & Pray

If you identify with the signs above and feel the timing is right, prayerfully consider this new adventure. But don't fly solo. Ask friends, family, and other Christians to pray as well.

Seek God's wisdom and discernment. In Psalm 37:4, David boldly declares, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Is there a business idea that keeps buzzing in your head?

Are you passionate about serving your customers? Or do you want to make money?

Have you been sharing your creations with friends and family? What feedback are you hearing?

Do you know if the timing is right for this new business? Have you prayed over it?

Who have you asked to pray over you as you consider this new adventure?

Who Is God Calling You to Serve?

Many times, God gives entrepreneurs a passion for a specific segment of His flock. That's what happened for Me.

When I started my online business, I felt called to help Christian teens who needed help deciding their next move after high school. This knowledge made starting my business easier as I knew who I was serving and how I would be helping them.

But if you're a new entrepreneur, it's not always easy to tell who God has called you to serve. Here are some things to help you find clarity around the issue:

Think about Who Naturally Gravitates Toward You

Sometimes, discovering who you're supposed to help is as simple as looking around to who approaches you. For example, Sarah found herself surrounded by new moms. They came to her, trusting her wisdom and advice. She was a patient teacher who never judged and always listened. As a result, new moms felt safe sharing their struggles with Sarah.

When it came time to start her business, Sarah instinctively knew she was passionate about serving new moms.

Understand You Might See an Overlap

Keep in mind that you may be serving more than one flock. As my business grew, I started helping those looking for direction in ministry and now business.

When managing multiple flocks, you'll want to focus on what they have in common. For me, my clients are all seeking to understand how God created them and intends to use them. I unite my audience and keep them interested in my business for years to come by doing this.

Don't Be Afraid of a New Flock

Sometimes, you may have served a flock in a past position. For example, a youth minister's wife spent years happily ministering to teenagers by writing Sunday school lessons and creating books.

But when it came time to start her business as a virtual assistant, she felt the Spirit leading her to serve Christian entrepreneurs. It's who she was excited to help, and she loved getting to work with new clients.

Avoid Flock Envy

When it comes to leading your flock, it could be easy to become jealous because someone else's audience seems more exciting or better than yours. Maybe you serve single mamas while your friend serves six-figure executives.

It's easy in these moments to envy your friend. You might think that your business would be better if you could serve a different audience. But God gave you the flock He chose for a reason. Trust His care, and remember that He knows how to supply all of your needs.

Consider	Share Your Thoughts
<p>Who naturally gravitates toward you? Who do you love helping?</p>	
<p>Do you see a potential overlap in your flock? Could you see yourself serving more than one audience?</p>	
<p>Have you been called to serve a new flock? If so, how do you feel about this?</p>	
<p>When are you tempted to envy another business owner? What prompts that emotion?</p>	

How Is God Asking You to Serve?

As you begin thinking about your audience, you may naturally know how God asks you to serve them. For example, Mark was a web designer, so when he felt Holy Spirit nudge him to help authors, he knew he would build websites for authors.

However, there might be times when God tells you about your flock. But He doesn't seem to give specific instructions on how to serve them. In these moments, it can be helpful to answer four specific questions:

Where Are You Gifted?

God gives us gifts because He longs for us to use them for His glory and be the light to those around us. Sometimes, how to apply these gifts might seem obvious. After all, if you're good with technology like Mark, you might find it easy to create a website or clean up computer viruses.

But sometimes, God's gifts to you might seem like a collection of unusual items. For example, you have the talent to see unique solutions (discernment), beautify your surroundings (craftmanship), and organize well (administration).

Using these skills, you could quickly become an event planner, graphic designer, or professional organizer. Of course, all three of these roles have very different requirements, and it's figuring out which one God called you to that is the exciting part!

What Do People Compliment You On?

Not every Christian recognizes their giftings. If you struggle with low self-esteem or have unkind people around you, it can be difficult to see where you shine.

In these cases, it might be helpful to stop and think about where others compliment you frequently. For example, if the women at church rave about the way you always look so well-dressed, it might indicate you have an eye for patterns and colors, often the mark of someone highly creative.

What Brings You Joy?

Think about the tasks that you spend hours lost in. Do you get completely absorbed when you're writing or painting? Maybe time flies by when you're dealing with machinery such as repairing a vehicle.

Often, the things that bring you joy are a good clue about what God might be calling you to do. You might find it helpful to make a list of tasks that bring you joy—whether they're big or small. Then prayerfully consider the list and how you can use these moments of joy to bless others.

How Have You Served in the Past?

Another way to gain clarity is to look at how you've served in the past. Consider the positions and opportunities that were a fantastic fit, as well as those that were a terrible match.

For example, David tried to write devotionals for his church's website. But he struggled with creating the content and putting his thoughts together so his readers could follow. He also grappled with uploading the devotionals to the website since he wasn't tech-savvy.

But when David volunteered to lead the youth camping trip, it was a massive success, with many teens finding David relatable. He didn't try to teach the kids anything. He showed up and served as opportunities appeared.

Like David, you may have had a few failed service attempts in the past. Keep these in mind as you consider starting your business. They're usually a clue as to what you shouldn't be doing.

When it comes time to write his business plan or create his website, David should probably get help. But given his genuine personality and his love for others, he'll most likely excel at one-on-one meetings with his clients.

You Are Special

As you seek to figure out where you're gifted and what God is calling you toward for your business, it's normal to experience doubt. You might worry that you're not genuinely talented or be concerned that your gifts aren't as good as someone else's.

But God made you. He created you and uniquely gifted you to fulfill His purpose for your life. In Psalm 139:13-14, David proclaimed:

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

You are wonderfully made, and using your gifts is a way to celebrate God's workmanship!

Where are you gifted?

On what do people compliment you? What attributes do those compliments reveal to you about yourself?

What brings you joy? How do you find yourself losing hours?

How have you served at work or church in the past? Were there any tasks that were a poor fit for you? What did you dislike about them?

Looking at where you've served at work or church, which tasks were a fantastic fit for you? What did you enjoy most about them?

What Sacrifices Will You Make for Your New Business?

Starting a new business typically means that you'll have to make some sacrifices. Some of these sacrifices may feel big or small to you, depending on your current lifestyle and the type of business you want to start.

Sacrifice #1: Time

The most apparent sacrifice for a new business is time. You will need to create more of it in your schedule. However, just ruthlessly slashing things from your day planner isn't likely to work.

Instead, try ranking your priorities and slowly removing those that don't rank as high to make room for your business. For example, Cheryl looked over her daily schedule. She had ordinary things on there like:

- Her morning run
- Prayer time with her husband
- Work projects
- Household chores
- Evening cuddles with her kids

She knew her top priority was her husband and kids, so her prayer time with him and her evening cuddles were non-negotiables. But there were a couple of work projects on which she could ask for an extension.

She also talked with her husband to distribute the household chores differently. He would handle them during the weeknights allowing her to work on her business while tackling the chores on the weekends.

Like Cheryl, you'll probably need to work with your spouse or family members to ensure all the essential things get done while you're starting your business. Take the time to thank them for their help and let them know how much it means to you right now.

Sacrifice #2: Money

Some businesses require small investments to get started. You may only need a social media presence and calendar initially, adding a domain name and hosting in the early stages of building your dream.

However, some businesses require a substantial investment. If you have a spouse, you may need to talk it over with them before you move forward. Treat your spouse like you would an investor. Focus on showing them the benefits of your business and be realistic about the costs involved.

Lisa's spouse peppered her with questions about what would happen if she started the business and something went wrong. At first, Lisa resented his questions. Then she realized that he was trying to be supportive and prepare her for the possibility of failure. Together, they came up with a plan B with which they both felt comfortable.

Sacrifice #3: Pride

When it comes to starting a new business, there's probably a lot you don't know. Sure, you might be skilled in a particular area such as writing or graphic design. But do you know how to do your bookkeeping? Are you familiar with your local business permit laws? Do you know how to protect your business with the right insurance?

A new business can be a humbling experience. Often, Christian entrepreneurs jump in excitedly only to realize they don't know enough about running a business.

If you've hit this particular snag, now is an incredible time to pause. Ask God for wisdom and discernment. Then bring in the people who can help you achieve your goals for your business. Maybe this means hiring a business coach or getting a lawyer who specializes in LLC formation to do the paperwork for you.

Don't be afraid to reach out and get others involved. A business can grow by leaps and bounds when you invite community into it!

Sacrifice Can Be a Good Thing

Every new adventure requires sacrifice. Some of these sacrifices might be easy to spot and easy to give.

But some of them may not be so simple. In these moments, it can be helpful to remember that God has called you to this business. He has gifted you with the abilities to do it, and He will strengthen you along the way.

Take heart from Paul's words in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." And in Romans 11:29, "For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable."

Consider	Share Your Thoughts
What do you have on your to-do list? What are your non-negotiable priorities?	
Do you need to invest in your business?	
Have you brought your spouse on board with your new business?	
What new things are you learning in your business?	

3 Relationships Every Christian Business Owner Needs

An old and honored principle states, “Everyone needs Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy.” These three men perfectly illustrate the concept of life coaching; these relationships also apply to your business.

Who Are Your Business Friends?

Barnabas is the one who walks beside you; he (or she) is your peer and your friend. This person may not have the same background or be building the same business as you. But they do have a goal or vision for their lives similar to the one you have.

Many online business owners already have a Barnabas or two in their lives. These may be friends you made in a forum or Facebook group who also run online businesses. Your Barnabas could also be someone you’ve met at an offline networking event and cultivated a deep friendship.

Who Are You Teaching?

Timothy is the mentee, the person who isn’t on your level yet, so you’re coaching them. You may do this in an official capacity, but most business owners quietly lead others in the background.

Your Timothy may be an intern, an apprentice, or a student. Whatever word you prefer, your Timothy is the person into whom you’re pouring time and energy.

Who’s Growing You?

Paul is the coach who’s further ahead in their journey than you are. This person is challenging and growing you. You can bring questions, get feedback, and learn how to navigate a difficult season in your life.

Sometimes your Paul will coach you through gentle nudges and lots of encouragement. They may also hold your hand and walk you through challenging tasks like setting up your membership software.

But when needed, your Paul may also deliver a big kick in the rear. Your Paul won’t accept excuses because he (or she) doesn’t want to see your business stall for months or years while you “get around to it.”

Who’s Already in Your Life?

Look around at your relationships and ask yourself who God has already blessed you placed in your life. You may have a Barnabas friend that relates to your struggles. You may have a newbie who needs direction and help.

Both of these relationships are important, but your coaching relationships aren’t complete if you don’t have a mentor of your own. You need someone more experienced who can teach you how to navigate your business.

Embracing these three relationships allows knowledge and wisdom to flow through you and your business from every angle. You need the cheerleading that comes from Barnabas, the teaching you pour into Timothy, and the insights that come from Paul.

Who are your business friends? If you don't have any, are you regularly fellowshipping with other entrepreneurs?

Who in your life and business are you mentoring? If you're not mentoring anyone, look around. Is there someone toward which God is nudging your heart?

Who is helping you grow? This person might be officially coaching you, or they might be doing it in the form of mentorship.

Have you ever seen an example of Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy in a business? What was that experience? How did it make you feel?

Why Are You Starting This Business?

As you begin your business, it's easy to let the excitement carry you. It's still new, and everything feels like a grand adventure. It's fun to pick out colors for your website or decorate your new home office. But at some point, this shiny enthusiasm will fade.

Checklist: Stepping Out in Faith for A New Business

Stepping out in faith for a new business doesn't have to be overwhelming or scary. It can be fun and easy if you follow these simple steps:

Discover Your Flock

- Pray for wisdom.** As you consider your new business, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to do and how to move forward.
- Make a list of your gifts.** Understanding how God has gifted, you can be helpful as you build your business.
- Think about your why.** Why is this business so dear to your heart? What about it excites you?
- Define your sweet spot.** The area where your flock needs help and where you function best.
- Consider who gravitates toward you.** Who naturally shows up in your life again and again in need of advice or guidance?
- Determine if there is an overlap audience.** Is God calling you to serve two flocks at once? If so, what's the common theme?
- Thank God for the flock you have.** To prevent envy and bitterness from creeping into your heart, thank God for the community He has prepared for you.

Make Space for Your Business

- Look for space in your budget.** Where is there margin in your budget? How could you use this to fund your business?
- Write a list of your priorities.** What's the most important thing to you? The least?
- Examine your to-do list.** Are there items that you need to remove to make space for your business?
- Hold sacred space.** There should be certain times of the day or the week that you hold sacred for worship, family, and self-care.
- Choose a workspace area.** Your workspace might be a corner of your kitchen table, a home office, or a favorite coffee shop.

- **Create a work schedule.** Even if you work unusual hours, set a work schedule to get into the habit of focusing at certain times.
- **Be realistic in your expectations.** Starting a new business is stressful, and you may have to adjust your plans in the beginning.

Reach Out for Help

- **Consider your weak areas.** These areas where you may have to get others to help you.
- **Bring in your spouse.** Ask your spouse for the support you need as you launch your business.
- **Create a prayer team.** If possible, put together a specific group of people who will intercede for you during this time.
- **Have a plan B in place.** Make sure your spouse knows what to do or who to contact if there is an unexpected crisis.
- **Delegate tasks.** You can't do everything, especially when you're starting a new business. Don't be afraid to delegate a few tasks each week.
- **Hire help.** If your budget allows for it and you need the assistance, consider hiring others to help you, just as Aaron held up Moses' arms.
- **Hire a Coach.** Make sure you have all three of the critical relationships of a Christian business owner.
- **Ask for feedback.** It can be helpful to check in with a business mentor or a spiritual advisor whose judgment you trust.

Go Boldly Forward

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

You don't have to fear moving forward with this new business adventure. God is with you. He will provide for your needs and strengthen your faith!

Congratulations!



You are on your way to discovering God's unique design for your Kingdom called business.

I can promise you this - if you move forward in faith and follow this process, God is going to increase your territory, expand your impact and use you and your business for your good, the good of others, and for His glory.



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